

Strengthening America's Security

HOMELAND SECURITY LEGISLATION ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Requires a Homeland Security Strategy for the Nation

- to be implemented across *all* parts of government

Requires a Comprehensive Assessment of Threats and Vulnerabilities

- we need to understand much better the worst threats and the best ways to respond; the legislation mandates that focus

Requires Close and Ongoing White House Coordination

- many agencies involved in the fight against terrorism, including intelligence, diplomatic, and law enforcement agencies, will remain outside the new Department; the legislation builds the existing White House Office to better assure coordination

Bolsters Emergency Preparedness and Response

- all layers and levels of government need to be working together to anticipate and prepare for the worst; the new department will develop and implement a comprehensive response plan in conjunction with local authorities

Builds Strong Bonds between Federal, State and Local Government

- state and local officials are the front lines of the fight against terrorism; the new department will reach out to those public servants with better training, new tools, and a coordinated prevention and protection strategy

Includes Consensus Provisions to Reform Government

- contains bipartisan civil service reform that provides significant new management flexibility in hiring employees and shaping the workforce

Brings Key Border and National Entry Agencies Together

- creates the means to ensure their effective coordination for the first time, keeping dangerous people and goods out without restricting the flow of legal immigration and commerce

Facilitates More Effective Homeland Security Intelligence Coordination

- creates the first focal point for swiftly receiving and analyzing all threats against the U.S. homeland

Promotes Dramatic New Research and Technology Development Opportunities

- the development and deployment of advanced technologies will be crucial to our homeland security; the legislation leverages government research capabilities and focuses academic, non-profit, and other private sector innovation on the challenge